UNITED STATE SOUTHERN DI	es district cour 0 strict of New York	CV 9394	
Mint, Inc.,	DOC		
	Plaintiff,	CIVIL COMPLAINT	GMA
v.		-CV-	
Shokomoko		JURY TRIAL DEMAN	,
and Amazon.com, Inc.			చ —
	Defendants. x		

The Parties

- 1. Plaintiff is a New York corporation with offices at 601 West 26th Street, Suite 1820A, New York, NY 10001.
- 2. Defendant Shokomoko is, upon information and belief, a business entity with a principal place of business in Israel.
- 3. Defendant Amazon.com, Inc. is a Delaware corporation with offices at 1200 12th Avenue South, Suite 1200, Seattle Washington 98144.

Nature of the Action

- 4. This action is brought in part under section 43(a) of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a) (trade dress infringement).
 - 5. This action is brought in part under 17 U.S.C. § 501 (copyright infringement).
 - 6. This action is brought in part under 35 U.S.C. § 271 (patent infringement).
- 7. This action is brought in part for common law unfair competition and trademark infringement.

Jurisdiction and Venue

- 8. Jurisdiction is proper under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338.
- 9. Jurisdiction for the common law unfair competition and trademark infringement causes of action is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1367.
 - 10. Jurisdiction is further proper under N.Y.C.P.L.R. § 302(a).
 - 11. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) and 28 U.S.C. § 1391(c).

Facts

- 12. In or about 2001, Alberto Mantilla created the sculptural work entitled "Hugging Salt and Pepper Shakers" depicted in Exhibit 1.
- 13. Mr. Mantilla applied for copyright registration of the "Hugging Salt and Pepper Shakers" on or about September 18, 2001. The United States Copyright Office granted registration of the work effective September 27, 2001. See Exhibit 2.
- 14. Mr. Mantilla assigned his copyright in the "Hugging Salt and Pepper Shakers" to plaintiff Mint Inc. effective January 1, 2008. See Exhibit 3.
- 15. On or about August 24, 2001, Mr. Mantilla filed for a design patent for the ornamental design of the "Hugging Salt and Pepper Shakers" sculptural work. On October 22, 2002, the United States Patent Office granted U.S. Design Patent No. D464,532 (the "532 Patent") based on Mr. Mantilla's application. See Exhibit 4.
- 16. Mr. Mantilla assigned the '532 Patent to Curve I.D., Inc., which subsequently assigned it to plaintiff. See Exhibit 5.
- 17. Through his company, plaintiff Mint, Inc., Mr. Mantilla has sold salt and pepper shakers, called the "Hug", embodying the "Hugging Salt and Pepper Shakers" sculptural work.

- 18. Since its introduction in 2002, plaintiff has widely advertised its Hug product and sold thousands of units of the same.
- 19. Upon information and belief, Defendant Shokomoko is a retailer in the business of selling products in part on Amazon.com.
- 20. Defendant Shokomoko has advertised and offered for sale unauthorized copies of Plaintiff's "Hugging Salt and Pepper Shakers" on Amazon.com. See Exhibit 6. Upon information and belief, defendant Shokomoko has sold unauthorized copies of Plaintiff's "Hugging Salt and Pepper Shakers" on Amazon.com.
- 21. Defendant Shokomoko sells its unauthorized products in packaging that is confusingly similar and/or substantially identical to Plaintiff's packaging.
- 22. Defendant Amazon.com has provides the technology and infrastructure supporting defendant Shokomoko's unauthorized advertising and sales.
- 23. By letter dated October 21, 2010, plaintiff expressly notified defendant

 Amazon.com of plaintiff's design patent, copyright and trade dress rights in the "Hugging Salt and Pepper Shakers." See Exhibit 7.
- 24. Plaintiff's October 21 letter demanded, among other things, that Amazon.com remove all references to the infringing products from its website.
- 25. Plaintiff received no response to the October 21 demand letter, and defendants Amazon.com and Shokomoko continued to sell the infringing product.
- 26. In a follow up letter dated November 5, 2010, plaintiff again demanded that defendant Amazon.com remove the infringing material from its website. See Exhibit 8.

- 27. To date, Plaintiff has received no response to the November 5 follow up letter, and defendants Amazon.com and Shokomoko continue to sell the infringing product.
- 28. Defendants Amazon.com and Shokomoko's sales of unauthorized, counterfeit copies of plaintiff's "Hug" product have been in willful disregard of plaintiff's copyrights, patent rights and trade dress rights.

First Count Patent Infringement

- 29. Plaintiff hereby incorporates the above allegations as if stated fully herein.
- 30. Each defendant's importation, offer for sale and sale of the unauthorized, counterfeit copies of plaintiff's "Hug" product embodies the patented design such that an ordinary observer would be deceived into believing that Defendants' product is the same as the patented "Hug" design.
- 31. Each defendant's importation, offer for sale and sale of the unauthorized, counterfeit copies of plaintiff's "Hug" product constitutes patent infringement under 35 U.S.C. § 271.
- 32. Plaintiff has been and continues to be irreparably harmed by each defendant's infringement.

Second Count Copyright Infringement

- 33. Plaintiff hereby incorporates the above allegations as if stated fully herein.
- 34. Through plaintiff's widespread advertising and sales, each defendant has had ample access and opportunity to view the infringed work.

- 35. Each defendant has literally and/or directly copied plaintiff's copyrighted design in its "Hug" product, such copies infringing plaintiff's copyright.
- 36. Plaintiff has been and continues to be irreparably harmed by each defendant's infringement.

Third Count Counterfeiting

- 37. Plaintiff hereby incorporates the above allegations as if stated fully herein.
- 38. Each defendant's unauthorized, counterfeit copies of plaintiff's "Hug" product are counterfeit pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1117.
- 39. Plaintiff has been and continues to be irreparably harmed by each defendant's counterfeiting.

Fourth Count Trade Dress Infringement

- 40. Plaintiff hereby incorporates the above allegations as if stated fully herein.
- 41. Plaintiff's product design of its "Hug" product and packaging serve to identify the source of the "Hug" product, and therefore constitutes protectable trade dress.
- 42. Each defendant's importation, offer for sale and sale of the unauthorized, counterfeit copies of plaintiff's "Hug" product is likely to cause confusion, and upon information and belief, has caused confusion, in consumers as to the authorized source of the "Hug" products and/or the source of each defendant's unauthorized, counterfeit copies.
- 43. Each defendant's importation, offer for sale and sale of salt and pepper shakers in unauthorized, counterfeit copies of plaintiff's packaging is likely to cause confusion, and upon

5

information and belief, has caused confusion, in consumers as to the authorized source of the "Hug" products and/or the source of each defendant's unauthorized, counterfeit copies.

- 44. Each defendant's importation, offer for sale and sale of the unauthorized, counterfeit copies of plaintiff's "Hug" product constitutes trade dress infringement of plaintiff's trade dress in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a).
- 45. Each defendant's importation, offer for sale and sale of salt and pepper shakers in unauthorized copies of plaintiff's packaging constitutes trade dress infringement of plaintiff's trade dress in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a).
- 46. Plaintiff has been and continues to be irreparably harmed by each defendant's infringement.

Fifth Count Common Law Trademark/Trade Dress Infringement

- 47. Plaintiff hereby incorporates the above allegations as if stated fully herein.
- 48. Plaintiff's product design of its "Hug" product and/or its product packaging serve to identify the source of the "Hug" product, and therefore constitute protectable trade dress of plaintiff.
- 49. Each defendant's importation, offer for sale and sale of the unauthorized, counterfeit copies of plaintiff's "Hug" product is likely to cause confusion, and upon information and belief, has caused confusion, in consumers as to the authorized source of the "Hug" products and/or the source of each defendant's unauthorized, counterfeit copies.
- 50. Each defendant's importation, offer for sale and sale of the unauthorized, counterfeit copies of plaintiff's "Hug" product constitutes common law trademark/trade dress infringement of plaintiff's trade dress.

51. Plaintiff has been and continues to be irreparably harmed by each defendant's infringement.

Sixth Count Common Law Unfair Competition

- 52. Plaintiff hereby incorporates the above allegations as if stated fully herein.
- 53. Plaintiff's product design of its "Hug" product and/or its product packaging serve to identify the source of the "Hug" product, and therefore constitute protectable trade dress of plaintiff.
- 54. Each defendant's importation, offer for sale and sale of the unauthorized, counterfeit copies of plaintiff's "Hug" product is likely to cause confusion, and upon information and belief, has caused confusion, in consumers as to the authorized source of the "Hug" products and/or the source of each defendant's unauthorized, counterfeit copies.
- 55. Each defendant's importation, offer for sale and sale of the unauthorized, counterfeit copies of plaintiff's "Hug" product constitutes common law unfair competition.
- 56. Plaintiff has been and continues to be irreparably harmed by each defendant's actions.

Prayer for Relief

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court enter judgment in favor Plaintiff:

- A. Awarding actual damages to plaintiff for each defendant's patent infringement under 35 U.S.C. §285, in an amount to be determined, but in no event less than a reasonable royalty;
 - B. Awarding actual damages to plaintiff for each defendant's copyright infringement

and counterfeiting under 17 U.S.C. § 504, in an amount to be determined;

- C. Awarding to plaintiff of all profits realized by each defendant for its copyright infringement and counterfeiting defendant under 17 U.S.C. § 504(b);
- D. Awarding statutory damages in the amount of \$150,000 for each defendant's willful infringement under 17 U.S.C. § 504(c)(2).
- E. Awarding actual damages to plaintiff for each defendant's trade dress infringement under 15 U.S.C. § 1117, in an amount to be determined;
- F. Awarding to plaintiff each defendant's profits, realized by defendant through its trade dress infringement, under 15 U.S.C. § 1117, in an amount to be determined;
- G. Awarding actual damages to plaintiff for each defendant's common law trademark/trade dress infringement and unfair competition, in an amount to be determined;
- H. Awarding exemplary damages to plaintiff in an amount equal to three times the actual damages and profits awarded;
 - I. Awarding plaintiff its costs and attorneys' fees;
- J. Permanently enjoining each defendant from importing, offering for sale and selling any product which infringes plaintiff's copyrights, patent rights and trade dress rights.
- K. Requiring each defendant to undertake remedial action, to be approved by the Court, designed to correct the confusion caused by each defendant's use of plaintiff's protected trade dress; and

Providing all other equitable relief that the Court deems just and proper. L.

> Respectfully submitted, Plaintiff, by its attorney,

Jeffrey Sonnabend (JS1243) SonnabendLaw

600 Prospect Avenue

Brooklyn, NY 11215-6012

718-832-8810

JSonnabend@SonnabendLaw.com

Dated: December 15, 2010

Exhibit 1 to Mint Inc. v. Amazon and Shokomoko Complaint

Authentic Hugging Salt and Pepper Shakers

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Exhibit 2 to Mint Inc. v. Amazon and Shokomoko Complaint

Mantilla Copyright Registration

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MINT INC / CURVE ID

⊘ 001/005

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION



This Certificate issued under the seal of the Copyright Office in accordance with title 17, United States Code, attests that registration has been made for the work identified below. The Information on this certificate has been made a part of the Copyright Office records.

Marybeth Geters

FORM VA For a Work of the Visual Arts RE

VAu 527 - 478

EFFECTIVE DATE OF REGISTRATION

SEP 2 7 2001

CIBRARY OF CO REGISTER OF COPYRIGHTS DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE. IF YOU NEED MORE SPACE, USE A SEPARATE CONTINUATION SHEET. OFFICIAL SEAL NATURE OF THIS WORK ▼ See instructions TITLE OF THIS WORK ▼ SCULPTURAL SHAKERS HUGGING SALT AND PEPPER SHAKERS PREVIOUS OR ALTERNATIVE TITLES ▼ tribution to a periodical, serial, or collection, give information about the collective work in which the Publication as a Contribution If this work was public ameribation appeared. This of Collective Work V Issue Date ▼ If published in a periodical or serial give: Volume V DATES OF BIRTH AND DEATH Year Born V Year Died V NAME OF AUTHOR Y ALBERTO MANTILLA Was This Author's Contribution to the Work
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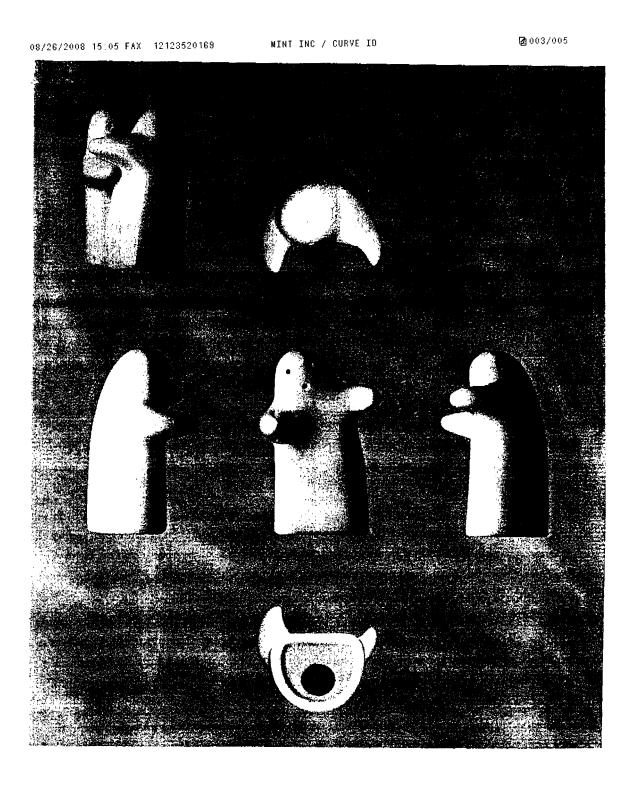
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- Sign the form at time 8

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Exhibit 3 to Mint Inc. v. Amazon and Shokomoko Complaint

Copyright Assignment from Mr. Mantilla to Mint., Inc.

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o t	he Register of Copyrights: Please record th	e accompanying original document o	r properly certified copy the	ereof.	
1	First party name given in the document	Alberto Mantilla			
2 First title given in the document		(IMPORTANT: Please read instruction for this and other spaces.) Hugging Salt and Pepper Shakers			
3	Total number of titles in the document	1			
- 4	Amount of fee calculated	95			
5	Fee enclosed	 ✓ Check ☐ Money order ☐ Fee authorized to be charged to Copyright Office deposit account 			
		Deposit account number			
		Deposit account name			
6	Completeness of document	Document is complete by its or	*	ent is not complete. Record "as is."	
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7	Certification of Photocopied Document	Complete this certification if a pho document bearing the actual origi NOTE: This space may not be used	inal signature.		
		I declare under penalty of perjury of the original document. Signature		Date 3-30-2009	
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J		Number/street 600 Prospect	Avenue	Apt/suite	
		City Brooklyn	State N	Zip 11215-6012	
		Phone number 718-832-8810	Fax numb	718-832-2767	
		Email jsonnabend@sonnab	endlaw.com		

SEND TO: Library of Congress, Copyright Office, Documents Recordation Section, 101 Independence Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20559-6000
INCLUDE ALL THESE TOGETHER: (1) Two copies of this form; (2) payment from a deposit account or by check/money order payable to Register of Copyrights; and (3) your document.

COPYRIGHT ASSIGNMENT

This Agreement is by and between Alberto Mantilla, 62 08 Ellwell Cresent, Rego Park, NY 11374 ("Mantilla") and Mint Inc., 601 West 26th Street Suite 1820A, New York, NY 10001 ("Mint").

WHEREAS Mantilla is the copyright author the sculptural works entitled "Hugging Salt and Pepper Shakers";

WHEREAS Mantilla is sole and exclusive owner of all rights, title and interest in the copyrights in the sculptural work and owner of copyright registration VAu 527-478 in the sculptural work;

WHEREAS Mantilla wishes to assign all of his rights, title and interest in the sculptural work and the copyright registration therein to Mint;

WHEREAS the undersigned individual has the authority to bind Mint:

THEREFORE, for the mutual covenants contained herein and for good and valuable consideration, the sufficiency of which the parties hereby acknowledge. Mantilla hereby assigns to Mint all rights, title and interest in the sculptural work and copyright registration VAu 527-478 to the full end of the term of copyright and for all renewals thereof, as fully and entirely as the same would have been held by Mantilla had this assignment not been made.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have hereunto set their hands and agreed as of January 1, 2008.

Alberto Mantilla	Mint Inc.)
	Name: ALBERTO MANTILLA
	Title:

Exhibit 4 to Mint Inc. v. Amazon and Shokomoko Complaint

Design Patent

(12) United States Design Patent (10) Patent No.: Mantilla

US D464,532 S

(45) Date of Patent:

** Oct. 22, 2002

(54) SPICE SHAKER

(75) Inventor: Alberto Mantilla, Rego Park, NY (US)

(73) Assignee: Curve I.D., Inc., New York, NY (US)

14 Years (**) Term:

(21) Appl. No.: 29/147,219

(22) Filed: Aug. 24, 2001

(51) LOC (7) Cl. 07-06

D9/316; 222/142.1-142.9, 480; D11/157,

160, 128

References Cited (56)

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

1002 Salt and Pepper Shakers, Carey and Tompkins, 1995, p. 95, 'seasoned kissers', top, right corner.*

Primary Examiner-Terry A. Wallace

(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm-Hayes Soloway PC

CLAIM

I claim the ornamental design for a spice shaker, as shown and described.

DESCRIPTION

FIG. 1 is a front view of a spice shaker;

FIG. 2 is a right side view of the spice shaker of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a left side view of the spice shaker of FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is a top view of the spice shaker of FIG. 1;

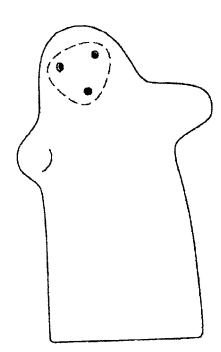
FIG. 5 is a bottom view of the spice shaker of FIG. 1;

FIG. 6 is a perspective view of the spice shaker of FIG. 1; and.

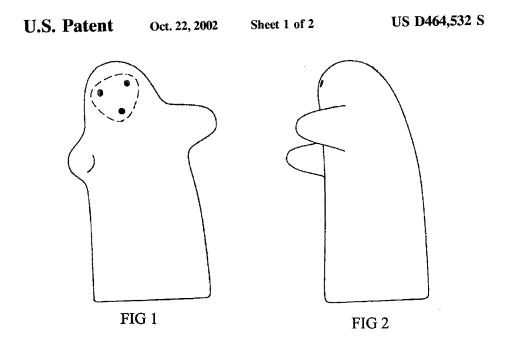
FIG. 7 is a perspective view thereof with another shaker shown in broken lines for illustrative purposes only and forming no part of the claimed design.

Portion of the article shown in dotted/dashed line illustration is not considered part of claimed design.

1 Claim, 2 Drawing Sheets



^{*} cited by examiner



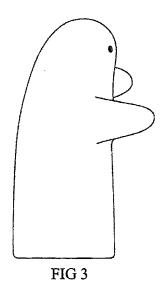


Exhibit 5 to Mint Inc. v. Amazon and Shokomoko Complaint Design Patent Assignment

USPTO

4/1/2009 12:09:35 PM PAGE 2/004 Fax Server

TO: JEFFREY SONNABEND COMPANY: 600 PROSPECT AVENUE



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office



MARCH 31, 2009

PTAS

JEFFREY SONNABEND 600 PROSPECT AVENUE BROOKLYN, NY 11215-6012

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RECORDATION DATE: 03/30/2009 REEL/FRAME: 022460/0869 NUMBER OF PAGES: 2

BRIEF: ASSIGNMENT OF ASSIGNOR'S INTEREST (SEE DOCUMENT FOR DETAILS).
DOCKET NUMBER: MIN2.001

ASSIGNOR:

CURVE ID INC. DOC DATE: 01/01/2008

ASSIGNEE:

MINT INC.

601 WEST 26TH STREET

SUITE 1820A

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10001

SERIAL NUMBER: 29147219
PATENT NUMBER: D464532
TITLE: SPICE SHAKER

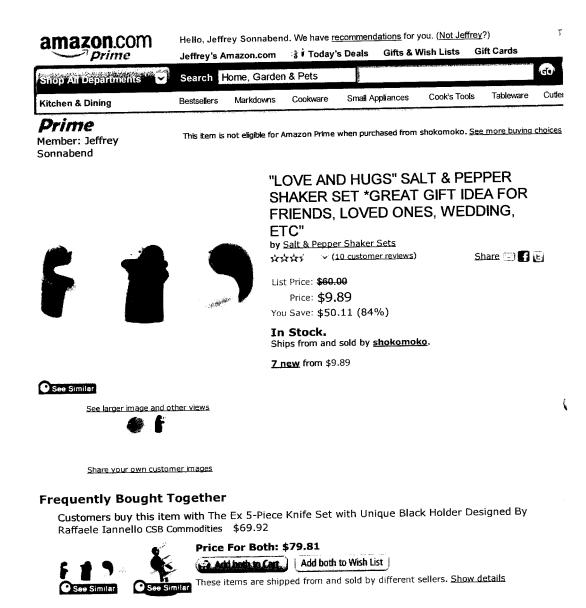
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 - www.uspro.gov

FILING DATE: 08/24/2001

ISSUE DATE: 10/22/2002

Exhibit 6 to Mint Inc. v. Amazon and Shokomoko Complaint

Unauthorized Sales



See Similar

See Similar

Customers Who Bought This Item Also Bought



The Ex 5-Piece Knife Set with Unique Black Holder... CSB Commodities 5'5'5'5' (109) \$69.92

See Similar

Kate Aspen Two Peas in A Pod - Ceramic Salt and Pep... by Kate Aspen 公文公文(11) \$4.00



The Ex 5-Piece Knife Set with Limited Edition Chr... CSB Commodities 公会公会 (109) \$99.95 CO

Product Features

• Made with high-quality PVC, not ceramic.

Product Details

Item Weight: 12.8 ounces

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

ASIN: B000J1RXQ4

Average Customer Review: 🌣🌣 💛 (10 customer reviews)

Amazon Bestsellers Rank: #3,913 in Kitchen & Dining (See Top 100 in Kitchen & Dining)

#3 in <u>Kitchen & Dining</u> > <u>Kitchen Utensils & Gadgets</u> > <u>Salt & Pepper</u> > <u>Salt & Pepper Shaker</u>

#32 in <u>Kitchen & Dining</u> > <u>Kitchen Utensils & Gadgets</u> > <u>Seasoning & Spice Tools</u>

Would you like to give feedback on images or tell us about a lower price?

Product Description

Product Description

As featured in Wallpaper- and I.D. magazine. The very nature of this set connotes love, making it a particle bold use of black and white suggests that we are all brothers and sisters on this planet and we ne kindness, compassion and respect. The rethinking of a salt and pepper set on this level, as well the cle design and the inherent ergonomic and storage benefits that it provides all contribute to the design's height

Product Ads from External Websites (What's this?)



Nambe Kissing Salt & Pepper Shakers

★☆☆☆ (2) \$79.00 + Free Shipping ✓ <u>Best Crystal</u>



Namb Metal Alloy Kissing Salt and Pepper Shakers

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Namb Peppe

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Exhibit 7 to Mint Inc. v. Amazon and Shokomoko Complaint

October 21, 2010 Letter from Mint to Amazon

LAW

Jeffrey Sonnabend Anomey at Law nuu Prospect Avenus Brooklyn, NY 11215

~18.832.8810

JSonnabend (CSonnabendl aw com

October 21, 2010

Via Email

Copyright Agent Amazon.com Legal Department P.O. Box 81226 Seattle, WA 98108

Re: Vendor Shokomoko "Love and Hugs" Product

Copyright, Design Patent and Trade Dress Infringement

Dear Sirs:

I am legal counsel to Mint, Inc. ("Mint"). Mint is the producer of the original "Hug" salt and pepper shakers depicted in Exhibit 1 hereto. Mint owns important intellectual property rights in the "Hug" product design, including: design patent rights (U.S. Design Patent D464,532); copyrights (registration VAu 527-478); and trade dress rights. See Exhibit 2 hereto.

Mint recently learned that one of your marketplace participants, "Shokomoko," has been offering for sale, selling and displaying on your website counterfeit copies of Mint's "Hug" product without authorization by Mint. See Exhibit 3 hereto containing printouts of the relevant pages from your website.

Shokomoko's purchase, offer for sale and sale of the counterfeit, unauthorized copies constitutes patent infringement under 35 U.S.C. § 271, copyright infringement under 17 U.S.C. § 501, and trade dress infringement under section 43(a) of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a). Your provision of marketplace and website services to Shokomoko facilitates Shokomoko's infringement, thereby rendering you a contributory, if not direct, infringer as well.

I have a good-faith belief that the disputed use is not authorized by the copyright owner, its agent, or the law.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the above information is accurate and that I am authorized to act on the copyright owner's behalf

Copyright Agent October 21, 2010 page 2

By this letter, Mint hereby demands that you immediately:

- remove from your website images of and reference to all counterfeit goods and materials relating thereto;
- provide to Mint the complete identity and contact information for Shokomoko;
- cease and desist from displaying, offering for sale and selling all copies of Mint's "Hug" product and colorable imitations thereof via Shokomoko's pages on your website or otherwise; and
- 4. provide to Mint an accounting of all sales made by Shokomoko of copies of Mint's "Hug" product via your website, including providing documentation sufficient to show the number of units sold by Shokomoko and the gross proceeds realized for such sales.

Please confirm within one week that you will comply with Mint's demands.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Sonnabend

Copyright Agent Amazon.com Legal Department November 5, 2010 Page 2

I look forward to hearing from you no later than November 15, 2010.

Sincerely

Jeffrey Sonnabend